

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03250 060949Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
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R 060531Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG UNN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3250

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE CENTER PARTY WOMEN'S LEAGUE
AUGUST 4, SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER AFFIRMED
SWEDEN'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND REVEALED
THAT THE GOS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL ASK THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT
TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE "MANY PEOPLE" WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED
IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. SODER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ZOUR
POSSIBILITIES TO INFLUENCE (HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES) ARE SMALL,"
AND POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE GREAT
POWERS.

2. "THE USA'S NEW POLICY IS PROMISING," SHE STATED. "WE
ARE STUDYING IT WITH SYMPATHY, AWARE OF THE DIFFICULT
BALANCING ACT THAT IS REQUIRED. . OF A SUPERPOWER."
IF HUMAN RIGHTS FINDS A REAL PLACE IN THE FOREIGN POLICIES
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03250 060949Z

OF THE GREAT POWERS, "MUCH WOULD BE WON," SODER ADDED,
AND WARNED THAT CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO REALIZATION
THAT "THE POOR COUNTRIES' ENORMOUS ECONOMIC MISERY IS
PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME AGAINST HUMAN DIGNITY."

3. SODER PLEDGED CONTIUED EFFORTS IN THE UN TO PROMOTE
INITIATIVES ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, ON AN INTERNATIONAL

BAN OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE, ON THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, AND ON THE PROHIBITION OF CRUEL WEAPONS. SHE ALSO FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM OF RACISM AND APARTHEID, DESCRIBING SOUTH AFRICA AS A COUNTRY WHERE "OPPRESSION AND TERROR HAVE BECOME AN INSTITUTION." SODER ADDED THAT SWEDEN HAS ALSO REACTED SHARPLY AGAINST THE "BRUTAL EXCESSES" OF "AUTOCRATIC RULERS OF THE WORST TYPE" IN SOME AFRICAN STATES.

4. IN DISCUSSING CHILE, SODER IMPLICITLY DESCRIBED THE GOC AS A "RUTHLESS OPPRESSOR REGIME" WHICH CONTINUES STRONG POLITICAL OPPRESSION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RECALLED AS WELL THAT SWEDEN HAS REACTED STRONGLY TO THE "EXCESSES" IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS CAMBODIA, ETHIOPIA, ARGENTINA, AND THE TWO KOREAS. SWEDEN, SHE CONTINUED, FEELS "STRONG AVERSION TO THE POLICY THAT HAS SUFFOCATED THE STRIVING FOR FREEDOM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."

5. TAKING A SWIP AT THE SOVIETS, SODER BROUGHT UP THE CASE OF THE TWO SWEDES WHO WERE ARRESTED IN THE USSR SOME TIME AGO FOR SMUGGLING RELIGIOUS MATERIAL. IN AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO THE AFFAIR, SODER NOTED THAT WHEN SWEDES ARE SUBJECT TO A POLICY OF "POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION," IT ATTRACTS "SPECIAL ATTENTION" AND SERVES AS A REMINDER THAT "OUR VALUES OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM AND RIGHTS ". . . UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03250 060949Z

HAVE ONLY A SMALL PLACE IN THE PRESENT WORLD."
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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